T 796 the motley crowd. Schnapps put a crown on the day and soon the valley resounded with singing and shouting. The dancing and singing continued from the end of the performance until far into the night and youth and maiden had their day. What Fan tse does not know something about flirting?

T 563 Bo lo tse were also to be seen at the performance in the monastery. However, everybody looked askance at them for the visitors and all the people from the monastery were Hsi fan, genuine Tibetans from the Scharba tribe. Many of them were ill at ease at the appearance of these simply-dressed people. Involuntarily the women said: "Watch out, there are Bo lo tse over there," and when one of the audience lost track of his horse, suspicion was immediately aroused: "the Bo lo tse have stolen it."

C 437 804 While I was shopping in Sung pan ting for my further journey I came across a Szechwan arrangement that I had never before encountered in China. Whenever I wanted to pay in silver for something in a shop and we had come to an agreement about the price, the merchant asked me to go with him to the kwan ping to weigh the silver. In a low shop on the main street an elderly gentleman sat in front of large iron scales for weighing silver. Thoughtfully and with an air of importance he examined through the large round lenses of his horn spectacles piece after piece of silver which the by-standers passed him. Then he weighed them and with his long-nailed fingers made out a certificate concerning weight and validity, for a small percentage of the value. If one stops to think that in the entire commercial city of Sung pan ting this was the only man in possession of an official license to weight silver, that no other set of scales was regarded as authentic, that everyone who paid in silver hastened to the kwan ping, then one realizes the importance of this position and its profitableness. The owner of the scales had to buy his license for a lump sum from the ting. But the people were so used to the procedure that not only the uncoined silver but also the Szechwan silver dollars which had been introduced four years before by the kwan ping man, had to be tested for weight and value. The people regarded the arrangement as a benefit because they were thus protected from frequent fraud, from bad silver and bad scales.

C 797 During my shopping I accidentally learned in one of the stores that there was another European beside myself staying in the city. A few days before Monseignor Dury, priest of the Missions étrangères, had moved into the house belonging to his mission. When I called on him I found the extremely gracious Frenchman all alone with a